

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 2-8 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 2-8 as being allowable.

Rejection Under 35 USC 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Tamburro (U.S. Patent 3,796,986). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant submit that this rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of this claim.

Withdrawn Claims

Applicants note that claims 9-20 have been withdrawn from consideration due to an election of species. By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have cancelled these non-elected claims in order to obtain the allowance of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application for these claims.

Conclusion

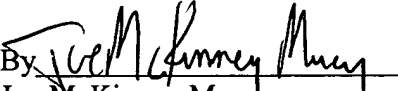
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims are now allowable as indicated by the Examiner. Accordingly, an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of one (1) month to January 23, 2006 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$120.00 is enclosed herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 23, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Joe McKinney Mundy

Registration No.: 32,834

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant